

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3915

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, CVIS, CSCE, RO

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON EMIGRATION/MFN: THE  
HUNGARIAN ISSUE

REF: STATE 140393

### 1. GENERAL COMMENTS

A. U.S. ASSESSMENT OF ALLEGATIONS: OUR GENERAL VIEWS ON DOCUMENT PREPARED BY COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROMANIA HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE JUNE 7 TRANSMISSION OF BUCHAREST 4244. WE HAVE BEGUN A RAPID EVALUATION OF CURRENT SITUATION OF HUNGARIAN MINORITY, INCLUDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH KEY ACTORS AND TRAVEL TO THE HUNGARIAN AREAS OF ROMANIA. WE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE ABLE TO PRODUCE A REASONABLY SOLID AND USEFUL REPORT BY JUNE 27, ALTHOUGH WE ARE SUBMITTING BY AIRGRAM MEMCONS AND OTHER MATERIAL GLEANED FROM OUR APPOINTMENTS TO DATE. COMMITTEE, AFTERALLL, TOOK AT LEAST ONE YEAR TO PRODUCE ITS PAPER AND WE ARE NOT A FULL FLEDGED RESEARCH INSITUITION. MOST IMPORTANT RECENT ELEMENT IS KADAR-CEAUSESCU COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED JUNE 17 WHICH FOR FIRST TIME BRINGS MINORITY PROBLEM OUT INTO THE OPEN AND CALLS FOR A "JUST SOLUTION." (SEPTTEL)

B. ROMANIAN SENSITIVITY TO IRREDENTIST ASPECTS: IF ANYONE HAS LINGERING DOUBTS ON HOW SENSITIVE ROMANIANS ARE TO POSSIBLE HUNGARIAN IRREDENTISM, A KEY PASSAGE OF KADAR-CEAUSESCU COMMUNIQUE STATES: "THE RESOLUTION OF  
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THE PROBLEM OF THE ETHNIC MINORITIES (IN ROMANIA AND HUNGARY), CITIZENS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, CONSTITUTEES AN INTERNAL QUESTION FOR WHICH EACH COUNTRY HAS (EXCLUSIVE) RESPONSIBILITY." ROMANIAN REACTION TO EXTERNAL ADVICE AND PRESSURE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PEOPLE LIVING INSIDE ROMANIAN TERROTORIAL BOUNDARIES IS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS U.S. REACTION TO FOREIGN MEDDLING IN, SAY,

THE PROBLEMS OF PUERTO RICANS IN NEW YORK OR ETHNIC MEXICANS IN TEXAS.

C. EXTENT OF DISCUSSION WITH ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES: AS DEPARTMENT FULLY AWARE, THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN MATTER OF CONTINUOUS DISCUSSION BY AMBASSADOR AND PRINCIPAL EMBOFFS WITH GOR OFFICIALS DURING PAST TWO YEARS. MAJOR CONVERSATIONS ARE ALL A MATTER OF RECORD. JUST IN LAST THREE WEEKS, AMBASSADOR HAS RAISED QUESTION WITH FORMIN MACOVESCU (BUCHAREST 4090) AND WITH DEPFONMIN GLIGA (JUNE 17). DCM HAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH MFA U.S. COUNTRY DIRECTOR, AND POLITICAL OFFICERS HAVE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PRINCIPAL HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE PUBLISHING HOUSE, WRITERS' UNION, AND COUNCIL OF SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE HAVE MORE APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT USG IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO DEFEND ONE POINT OF VIEW OR ANOTHER ON WHAT IS A HIGHLY-CHARGED ISSUE BUT RATHER IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN AS OBJECTIVE INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE IN A SITUATION WHERE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM SUCH INFORMATION WILL PROBABLY DIFFER.

## 2. OPENING STATEMENT

BASED ON ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING FOR INCLUSION IN DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT: QUOTE AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS COMMITTEE AND AS, I UNDERSTAND, WILL BE RAISED IN TESTIMONY LATER IN THIS HEARING, THERE IS CONCERN ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ETHNIC HUNGARIAN MINORITY. THIS CONCERN HAS FOCUSED ON ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION, CULTURE, THE ECONOMY, AND THE USE OF THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE. UNTIL MOST RECENTLY THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PREFERRED, LIKE ALL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING OUR OWN, TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF MINORITIES AS AN EXCLUSIVELY DOMESTIC QUESTION. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC STATEMENT, HOWEVER, THE ROMANIAN AND HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOW RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF A MINORITY QUESTION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU OF ROMANIA AND GENERAL SECRETARY KADAR OF HUNGARY DECLARED IN THEIR JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 17 THAT THE EXISTENCE OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN ROMANIA AND HUNGARY "CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." ALTHOUGH STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS STATEMENT, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAVE OPENLY DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT

THIS STATEMENT WILL LEAD TO POSITIVE STEPS ON THE  
PART OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS  
OF THEIR MINORITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A COOPERATIVE  
APPROACHH ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED OFFERS  
THE BEST PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME WE  
RECOGNIZE OUR OBLIGATION, QUIETLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY,  
TO LEND WHATEVER POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT WE CAN. UNQUOTE.  
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